WHY IS YARD WASTE AND GRASS CLIPPINGS SO BAD?



As grass clippings and yard waste breaks down, it releases phosphorus and nitrogen to the water which leads to excessive algae growth.



These algae blooms block out sunlight and reduce oxygen levels in water, which can lead to fish kills.



Information courtesy of: www.tcpwq.org



Contact Information

Tippecanoe County:

Dale Snipes (765) 423-9228 dsnipes@tippecanoe.in.gov

City of Lafayette:

Dale Chumley (765) 807-1800 dchumley@lafayette.in.gov

City of West Lafayette:

Marcus Smith (765) 775-5130 msmith@wl.in.gov

Purdue University:

Adam Keyster (765) 494-8004 akeyster@purdue.edu

Town of Battleground:

Ron Holladay (765) 567-4002 Ron@battleground.in.gov

Town of Dayton:

Mark Harlow (765) 296-2533 daytontownmanager@gmail.com

Ivy Tech Community College Lafayette:

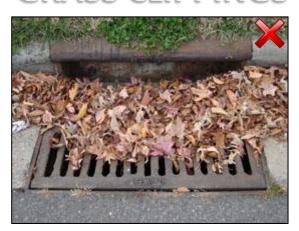
Fred Plant (765) 269-5132 fplant1@ivytech.edu

Information developed by: www.siswac.org

Last updated October 2015



YARD WASTE AND GRASS CLIPPINGS



The Grass isn't always greener on the other side...of the Storm Drain!

Yard debris, like leaves, grass clippings, and other organic plant material are a significant source of stormwater pollution.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?



Leave grass clippings on your lawn where they act as a natural fertilizer. Or bag them for easy disposal.



Don't forget to sweep up! Grass clippings and leaves will wash into a storm drain during the next rain, where they can clog culverts, storm drains, and pipes, causing flooding.





How can you protect water quality while keeping your yard maintained?

- ✓ Mow your lawn often so you only remove the top 1/3rd of grass blades. Taller grass has deeper roots which prevents soil loss and helps water infiltrate.
- ✓ Leave grass clippings on the lawn or compost them. Intentionally blowing or placing lawn waste in the street is illegal and you could receive a citation or fine.
- ✓ Fertilize only when necessary, and don't do it if it might rain within two days.
 - ✓ Use slow-release Nitrogen fertilizer which doesn't need to be applied as often.
 - ✓ In the fall, bag your leaves for municipal collection. If your community picks them up from the street, don't place them in the gutter if it's going to rain within two days.
 - ✓ Clean up after your pets!
- ✓ Never hose grease, oil, or fluid from chemicals or spills into a storm drain! Use an absorbent material and sweep it up.
 - ✓ Plant a raingarden!





Start a compost pile and turn yard waste into rich soil for your indoor and outdoor plants.





Taller grass is more drought tolerant and has deeper roots. Keep grass at least 3" high and mow often so you only remove the top 1/3rd of grass blades.

If you see someone dumping yard waste and grass clippings in the storm drain, call your local Stormwater Hotline.